

A/B, 1, 26/1

CHEMICAL WARFARE - UNITED STATES

PSYCHOCHEMICAL AGENTS:

Derivatives of ergot such as lysergic acid amide, derivatives of marijuana (cannabine), mescaline and its derivatives, are being studied as a basis for the synthesis of candidate psychochemical agents. These substances have in common the ability to produce hallucinations and mental aberrations. The greatest difficulty in this group of agents has been the establishment of suitable screening techniques. An active contract program to this end is being prosecuted with the [redacted] and with the [redacted].

NATURALLY OCCURRING TOXINS:

This group includes shell fish poison, puffer fish poison and the mushroom poisons from *Amanita muscaria*. Material is collected from the natural sources, concentrated and purified. Attempts are then made to determine structure. If these compounds turn out to be sufficiently simple synthesis will be attempted. Work on this group of toxins is being done under contract with the [redacted] and [redacted] for shell fish poison, and with [redacted] for the mushroom poisons. Search for toxic compounds in this as well as other fields is being simplified under contract with [redacted]. Subcontracts include studies of puffer fish toxin at the [redacted] and at [redacted].

(from RFB TECHNICAL ESTIMATES of the [redacted]
[redacted] 8 April 1953, [redacted])